



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
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Sheriff

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Theft from Vehicles and Theft of a Motor Vehicle

The Lake County Sheriff's Office received several complaints of thefts from motor vehicles in Painesville Twp on 11-03-2010. Two residents from Cambridge Condominiums and one resident from Coventry Dr. reported property stolen from their vehicles during the night of 11-02 into 11-03-10. The stolen property consisted of a purse and its contents, a GPS unit and a credit card. During the course of these investigations, Deputy Raico located a cellular phone in one of the victims vehicles that did not belong to the vehicle owner. It was suspected that the suspect in these thefts dropped his cell phone in the vehicle during the commission of the crime. Subsequent investigation revealed that the cell phone belonged to one Johnny Ray McElroy, DOB-08-27-74, a 36 year old white male from Painesville Twp. Some of the contents from the stolen purse were located along Mentor Ave. in Painesville Twp. the following day.

On 11-06-2010 at 1851 hrs., the Lake County Sheriff's Office received a report of a stolen vehicle in progress from the Sheetz Gas Station in Perry Twp. The complainant, a 45 year old male from Madison reported that he left his green 2004 Ford F250 pickup truck running when he went into the store. The owner of the truck upon exiting the store observed his truck leaving the parking lot. An immediate broadcast was performed and Perry Village Patrolman Anthony Costello located the stolen vehicle on Middle Ridge Rd. and US 20 in Perry Twp. A traffic stop was performed and the suspect was taken into custody. The suspect was identified as Johnny Ray McElroy. McElroy was arrested and charged with the theft of this motor vehicle and was also charged with DUI and Driving Under Suspension.

Deputy Raico subsequently interviewed McElroy in reference to the recent thefts from motor vehicles in Painesville Twp. McElroy admitted that he was intoxicated and had been smoking crack cocaine on the night in question. McElroy admitted that he had entered the three cars in Painesville Twp. and that he had stolen property from the vehicles during which time he dropped his cell phone in one of the cars. McElroy will also be charged with three additional counts of Theft for the thefts from these three motor vehicles in Painesville Twp.

Lt. C. Dondorfer #53